

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-12 are pending in the application, with claim 1, 8, and 11 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 5, and 6 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being "directed to non-statutory subject matter." (Office Action at ¶ 1.)

Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite (emphasis added):

A ***computer-based*** method for providing a user with a short-range weather adapted, business forecast, comprising the steps of:

- (1) providing the user, ***via a graphical user interface***, with a selection of product categories;
- (2) receiving, from the user, ***via said graphical user interface***, a product category input from among said selection of product categories;
- (3) providing the user, ***via said graphical user interface***, with a selection of specific products based on said product category input;
- (4) receiving, from the user, ***via said graphical user interface***, a specific product input from among said selection of specific products;
- (5) receiving a future time period input from the user, ***via the graphical user interface***, wherein said future time period encompasses at least one day;

(6) receiving a geographic location input from the user, *via said graphical user interface*; and

(7) displaying to the user, *via said graphical user interface*, a first weather favorability map of said geographic area that displays the weather favorability for said specific product, within said product category, for each day within said future time period;

whereby the user can make informed retail-based advertising, allocation, placement, promotion and staffing decisions using said first weather favorability map.

As amended, independent claim 1 more precisely recites structures of a computer system that perform the functions of the method. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended in a similar manner. Claims 2-7 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action notes that each of claims 1, 8, and 11 recites allowable subject matter. (*See*, Office Action at ¶ 2.) Claims 2-7, 9, 10, and 12 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 8, or 11. Accordingly, and in light of the amendments to claims 1, 5, and 6, Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-12 be passed to allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants request that the Examiner indicate his consideration of U.S. Patent No. 6,035,285 to Schlect *et al.*, which was listed on the Form PTO-1449 included with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 13, 2001.

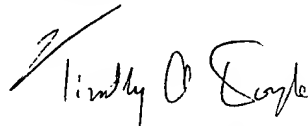
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly accommodated. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy A. Doyle".

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